Number of Fair Price Shops in the country

1275. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) what is the number of fair price shops in urban and rural areas at present; and

(b) what steps are being taken to open more fair price shops in rural areas ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI NATHU RAM MIRDHA): (a) The number of fair price shops in urban and rural areas of the country as on 30-9-89 was as follows :—

Urban	87975
Rural	269090
Total	- 357065

(b) Administration of the Public Distribution System (PDS) including opening of fair price shops is the responsibility of State Governments/U.T. Administrations. They have been advised from time to time to open fair price shops, wherever necessary and to give special stress on opening of fair price shops in remote, far flung areas, Harijan Basties, Tribal areas etc. A norm of one fair price shop for every 2000 persons has been suggested to States and U.Ts. They have also been advised to ensure that no consumer/card holder has to travel more than 3 k.m. to reach his fair price shop.

Import of edible oil

1276. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA:

SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU :

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity and value of edible oils imported during the last year and proposed to be imported during the current year alongwith the estimated cost thereof;

(b) what are the reasons for short fall in the targeted production of oil seeds; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take to make the country self-sufficient in edible oils ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI NATHU RAM MIRDHA) : (a) STC imported a quantity of 10.89 lakhs MTs valued Rs. 765.16 crores (CIF) of edible oils during the financial year 1988-89 and the total quantity of edible oil to be imported during the current financial year i.e. 1989-90 is being assessed from time to time.

(b) According to present assessment no shortfall in targeted production of oilseeds during 1989-90 is anticipated.

(c) The following measures have been taken by the Government to make the country self-sufficient in edible oils :—

1. Implementation of National Oilseeds Development Project, besides, an Oilseeds Production and Thrust Programme (OPTP) has been introduced with 100 per cent assistance to State for providing critical inputs like improved seeds, plant protection, irrigation and extension of technology.

2. Oilseeds Project of the National Dairy Development Board.

3. Better incentive to producers through fixation of minimum support prices.

4. Intensification of research efforts for increasing the productivity of oilseeds.

5. Increase in area under non-traditional oilseed crops like soyabean and sunflower and exploitation of oilseeds of tree and forest origin, rice bran etc.

6. Setting up of necessary processing and infrastructural facilities to keep pace with the production programme of Oilseeds.

7. Setting up of a Technology Mission on Oilseeds Production.